

autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities, develop guidelines for those interventions, and disseminate information related to such research and guidelines.

“(g) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated, \$32,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, \$37,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, \$42,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, \$47,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, and \$52,000,000 for fiscal year 2011, of which—

“(1) \$5,000,000 shall be made available in each fiscal year for activities described in subsection (c); and

“(2) \$3,000,000 shall be made available in fiscal year 2007, \$6,000,000 in fiscal year 2008, \$9,000,000 in fiscal year 2009, \$12,000,000 in fiscal year 2010, and \$15,000,000 in fiscal year 2011, for activities described in subsection (f).

“(h) **SUNSET.**—This section shall not apply after September 30, 2011.

“SEC. 399CC. INTERAGENCY AUTISM COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish a committee, to be known as the ‘Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Committee’), to coordinate all efforts within the Department of Health and Human Services concerning autism spectrum disorder.

“(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—In carrying out its duties under this section, the Committee shall—

“(1) make recommendations concerning the strategic plan described in section 409C(a);

“(2) develop and annually update advances in autism spectrum disorder research related to causes, early screening, diagnosis or rule out, intervention, and access to services and supports for individuals with autism spectrum disorder; and

“(3) make recommendations to the Secretary regarding the public participation in decisions relating to autism spectrum disorder.

“(c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Committee shall be composed of—

“(A) the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

“(B) the Director of the National Institutes of Health, and the Directors of such national research institutes of the National Institutes of Health as the Secretary determines appropriate;

“(C) the heads of such other agencies as the Secretary determines appropriate;

“(D) representatives of other Federal Governmental agencies that serve individuals with autism spectrum disorder such as the Department of Education; and

“(E) the additional members appointed under paragraph (2).

“(2) **ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.**—Not fewer than 6 members of the Committee, or 1/3 of the total membership of the Committee, whichever is greater, shall be composed of non-federal public members to be appointed by the Secretary, of which—

“(A) at least one such member shall be an individual with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder;

“(B) at least one such member shall be a parent or legal guardian of an individual with an autism spectrum disorder; and

“(C) at least one such member shall be a representative of leading research, advocacy, and service organizations for individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

“(d) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT; TERMS OF SERVICE; OTHER PROVISIONS.**—The following provisions shall apply with respect to the Committee:

“(1) The Committee shall receive necessary and appropriate administrative support from the Secretary.

“(2) Members of the Committee appointed under subsection (c)(2) shall serve for a term of 4 years, and may be reappointed for one or more additional 4 year term. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term shall be appointed for the remainder of such term. A member may serve after the expiration of the member's term until a successor has taken office.

“(3) The Committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson or upon the request of the Secretary. The Committee shall meet not fewer than 2 times each year.

“(4) All meetings of the Committee shall be public and shall include appropriate time periods for questions and presentations by the public.

“(e) **COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.**—Members of the Committee who are officers or employees of the Federal Government shall serve as members of the Committee without compensation in addition to that received in their regular government employment. Other members of the Committee shall receive compensation at rates not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate in effect for grade GS-18 of the General Schedule for each day (including travel time) they are engaged in the performance of their duties as members of the Committee.

“(f) **SUBCOMMITTEES; ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.**—In carrying out its functions, the Committee may establish subcommittees and convene workshops and conferences. Such subcommittees shall be composed of Committee members and may hold such meetings as are necessary to enable the subcommittees to carry out their duties.

“(g) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated, such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

“(h) **SUNSET.**—This section shall not apply after September 30, 2011 and the Committee shall be terminated on such date.

“SEC. 399DD. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the Combating Autism Act of 2006, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, shall prepare and submit to the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee of the Senate and the Energy and Commerce Committee of the House of Representatives a progress report on activities related to autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities.

“(b) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall contain—

“(1) a description of the progress made in implementing the provisions of the Combating Autism Act of 2006;

“(2) a description of the amounts expended on the implementation of the particular provisions of Combating Autism Act of 2006;

“(3) information on the incidence of autism spectrum disorder and trend data of such incidence since the date of enactment of the Combating Autism Act of 2006;

“(4) information on the average age of diagnosis for children with autism spectrum disorder and other disabilities, including how that age may have changed over the 4-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act;

“(5) information on the average age for intervention for individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities, including how that age may have changed over the 4-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act;

“(6) information on the average time between initial screening and then diagnosis or rule out for individuals with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities, as well as information on the average time between diagnosis and evidence-based intervention for individuals with au-

tism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities;

“(7) information on the effectiveness and outcomes of interventions for individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, including by various subtypes, and other developmental disabilities and how the age of the child may affect such effectiveness;

“(8) information on the effectiveness and outcomes of innovative and newly developed intervention strategies for individuals with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities; and

“(9) information on services and supports provided to individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities who have reached the age of majority (as defined for purposes of section 615(m) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1415(m))).”.

(b) **REPEALS.**—The following sections of the Children's Health Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-310) are repealed:

(1) Section 101 (42 U.S.C. 247b-4a) relating to research activities at the National Institutes of Health.

(2) Section 102 (42 U.S.C. 247b-4b) relating to the Developmental Disabilities Surveillance and Research Program.

(3) Section 103 (42 U.S.C. 247b-4c) relating to information and education.

(4) Section 104 (42 U.S.C. 247b-4d) relating to the Inter-Agency Autism Coordinating Committee.

(5) Section 105 (42 U.S.C. 247b-4e) relating to reports.

Mr. SANTORUM. I thank the Chair.

For the information of those who might be listening, the bill is now passed and we are off to the House with great hope that this fall will bring us successful passage there and final action by the President sometime in September.

I yield the floor.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 3765**

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I see the majority leader is on the floor. I will make a unanimous consent request. I would like to very briefly describe what I am about to request.

I have filed S. 3765, along with Senator SUNUNU as my cosponsor, as well as Senator FEINGOLD and Senator STABENOW.

This is a bill that is very timely and important. I hope we will be able to have unanimous consent to go forward with this bill and pass it this evening.

It is a bill that has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I have personally spoken to Senator ARLEN SPECTER, chairman of this committee, and told him I was going to make this unanimous consent request this evening. He said he would not object. Those were his exact words.

Senator LEAHY said the same thing.

The reason I am taking this extraordinary step is because this is an extraordinary situation. We all know what happened in Lebanon today. You can't turn on the news without being aware of the war that has consumed both southern Lebanon and many parts of northern Israel.

We realize as well that many people are innocent victims on both sides of

the border, and we realize that the United States has officially evacuated American citizens from Lebanon because of the danger.

We are also very aware of the fact that we have asked other Americans who remained to remove themselves as quickly as possible. It is estimated that 20 to 25 percent of the population of Lebanon has now been displaced. They are refugees—people who have been forced to leave their homes because of the danger of remaining because of the hostilities that continue between Israel and Hezbollah.

The purpose of this legislation is not new. It is something that has been done repeatedly. It grants temporary protected status to those Lebanese visitors in the United States who are legally here on visas which permit them to be here and which may soon expire. When they do, under the law these people are expected to leave the United States and return to Lebanon.

We have in the past been sensitized to the fact that sending many of these families from the United States to war-torn countries under these circumstances may in fact endanger those families.

The United States has many, many times in the past said we will grant temporary protected status to visitors in the United States to protect them from returning to a dangerous situation.

It is an act of compassion, an act of humanitarian caring, and I think speaks well of the United States. In the past we have even granted this status to Lebanese visitors when Lebanon was at war in the 1990s for the very same reason.

Today, there are seven countries around the world where the United States has granted temporary protected status to visitors from those countries in the United States.

This temporary protected status does not put these visitors on a path to legalization or citizenship. It simply allows them if they wish to stay in the U.S. while the hostilities continue up to a year. It would be a renewal after that point.

The reason I offered it at this late hour is because it is a matter of great urgency. It is important that we do this in a timely fashion.

As we consider this measure, the Bush administration is considering whether to do this administratively, which they can. We have done it legislatively. It has been done administratively.

My concern is that tomorrow I am certain some Lebanese visitors to the U.S. will find that their visas have expired, and they will face a very difficult decision. If they comply with the law and leave, returning to Lebanon, they could be endangering families and children who are here innocently visiting members of their family and friends. We don't want that to happen. These poor people from Lebanon, these innocent victims, should not have to return to this scene.

Of course, our State Department and the Department of Homeland Security would retain the authority to review each and every person. If for any reason some Lebanese visitor to the United States should not be allowed to remain in the United States, they can be denied the status. So it is done on a case-by-case basis. It offers a protection, which I think is the humanitarian thing to do.

Throughout history there have been times when in the course of war people have turned refugees from their country, left their country and turned to other countries for refuge. In many instances, countries have welcomed them understanding that that is the right and humane thing to do. In other instances, countries have shunned them. Those countries have been embarrassed by the history that was written afterwards.

I am lucky to be a Senator in this great country, a country which has extended this generosity and this welcome time and time again.

I am urging my colleagues this evening to join me in passing this bill, an extraordinary passage by unanimous consent so that we can send a clear message to the administration and to the Lebanese visitors to the United States that we deeply care about their safety and their security.

I see the majority leader is on the floor. I will make the formal unanimous consent request.

I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 3765, the Lebanese Temporary Protected Status bill that has been introduced by myself, Senator SUNUNU, Senator FEINGOLD, and Senator STABENOW, that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration, the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion reconsider be laid upon the table without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, reserving right to object, S. 3765 to permit nationals being granted temporary protected status in United States is a bill that I personally support. And the chairman of the Judiciary Committee commented to the distinguished assistant minority leader his support. I just received it 15 minutes ago. I am trying to clear it but have not heard back from everybody tonight.

Without giving everyone the opportunity to review it, I am going to have to object tonight.

Again, we will see what happens over the next 30 or 40 minutes that we are in tonight. Not having heard back from everyone, I am unable to verify. So I do object.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I understand. I gave this to the majority leader maybe 45 minutes ago at most. I certainly didn't want to try to surprise him and mislead him because I think this is a matter that is very important. I sincerely hope we can clear this tonight. If we are unable to clear this and

pass this legislation—or even if we do—I urge Michael Chertoff, Secretary of the Homeland Security Department, to grant this status to Lebanon and to do it immediately—immediately. The people of Lebanon cannot wait until Congress returns to Washington in September. And his immediate action will save lives and give peace of mind to a lot of our friends from Lebanon and to their families who live in the United States.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, during the next probably 20 or 30 minutes we will be working on a number of issues which are coming up unexpectedly at this late hour given the fact that we will be out for 4 weeks. It is a little bit disjointed as we pull together a number of these unanimous consent requests. And then we have the issue of nominations and a few more remarks.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 3769

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 3769 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I am not familiar with this bill. I have been informed by our cloakroom that there are objections to this from Members who are familiar with the content of the bill and/or members of the Foreign Relations Committee. I hope those as well can be resolved this evening. Absent that happening, I will have to object to this unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I am disappointed that tonight we could not pass this bill. This is the Cuba Transition Act of 2006 which I cosponsored along with the Senators ENSIGN and MARTINEZ.

This bill would have authorized assistance to the people of Cuba, encouraged a democratic election process, and created a fund to support independent civil-society-building efforts.

It would have created the Fund For a Free Cuba which would have provided assistance to a transitional government in Cuba, and included assistance